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PROVISIONAL VERBATIM RECORD OF THE 82nd MEETING

Held at Headquarters, New York,
on Monday, 2 March 1992, at 10.30 a.m.

President: Mr. SHIHABI (Saudi Arabia)

- Expression of welcome to the Secretary-General
- Expression of welcome to the new Under-Secretary-General for Political Affairs
- Expression of farewell to the former Under-Secretary-General for Political and General Assembly Affairs and Secretariat Services
- Admission of new members to the United Nations: [20] (continued)

  (a) Republic of Moldova: draft resolution

  (b) Kazakhstan: draft resolution

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(c) Kyrgyzstan: draft resolution

(d) Uzbekistan: draft resolution

(e) Armenia: draft resolution

(f) Tajikistan: draft resolution

(g) Turkmenistan: draft resolution

(h) Azerbaijan: draft resolution

(i) San Marino: draft resolution

- Adoption of the agenda and organization of work: [8] (continued)

(a) Letter dated 25 February 1992 from the Permanent Representative of Egypt to the United Nations addressed to the President of the General Assembly (A/46/887) requesting reallocation of agenda item 105 (Review of the efficiency of the administrative and financial functioning of the United Nations)

(b) Note by the Secretary-General (A/46/761/Add.1) requesting reopening of the consideration of agenda item 18 (j) (Confirmation of the appointment of the Secretary-General of the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development)

(c) Request for the inclusion of an additional item submitted by the Secretary-General

- Appointments to fill vacancies in subsidiary organs and other appointments: [18] (continued)

(j) Confirmation of the appointment of the Secretary-General of the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development: note by the Secretary-General

(k) Appointment of members of the International Civil Service Commission: report of the Fifth Committee

- Review of the efficiency of the administrative and financial functioning of the United Nations: [105] (continued)

(a) Note by the Secretary-General

(b) Draft resolution

The meeting was called to order at 10.45 a.m.

EXPRESSION OF WELCOME TO THE SECRETARY-GENERAL

The PRESIDENT: On this historic day, and during this solemn occasion, I have the honour, as this is the first time that the Secretary-General, Mr. Boutros Boutros-Ghali, is attending the General Assembly after his appointment by this body, on behalf of the entire membership of the United Nations to welcome him most warmly and wish him all success as he assumes his great responsibility at an important stage in the work of the United Nations and in the international arena. I wish to assure him that we shall extend our full cooperation and support as he undertakes his important role for the benefit of the international community and the future of the whole world. I am confident that his eminent qualities will provide us with the best chance for fulfilling this noble mission of the United Nations. May I wish him, again, in the name of the entire membership, all the success and all the satisfaction of great achievement.

EXPRESSION OF WELCOME TO THE NEW UNDER-SECRETARY-GENERAL FOR POLITICAL AFFAIRS

The PRESIDENT: I should like, on my own behalf and that of the General Assembly, to welcome amongst us today the newly appointed Under-Secretary-General for Political Affairs, Mr. Vladimir Fedorovich Petrovsky. Mr. Petrovsky is assuming his important function at a time when the Organization is undergoing a bold process of renewal and reform in order to enhance its capacity to respond to the ever-increasing and ever more complex challenges of our time. He has served his country with distinction in a variety of responsible posts, including, most recently, as Deputy Foreign Minister. His United Nations experience, both as a representative of his country and, many years ago, as a member of the Secretariat, affords him a unique perspective for fulfilling his very important duties. We heartily welcome him.

EXPRESSION OF FAREWELL TO THE FORMER UNDER-SECRETARY-GENERAL FOR POLITICAL AND GENERAL ASSEMBLY AFFAIRS AND SECRETARIAT SERVICES

The PRESIDENT: On this occasion, I should also like to express my sincere appreciation to Ambassador Ronald Spiers, former Under-Secretary-General for Political and General Assembly Affairs and Secretariat Services, who has left the United Nations after nearly three years of devoted service. We have benefited from his vast experience in international affairs and his generous cooperation in all matters concerning the work of the General Assembly. He brought to the discharge of his office eminent political skills, a powerful intellect and a disarmingly forthright manner. May I offer former Under-Secretary-General Spiers our best wishes for the future.

AGENDA ITEM 20 (continued)

ADMISSION OF NEW MEMBERS TO THE UNITED NATIONS

(a) REPUBLIC OF MOLDOVA: DRAFT RESOLUTION (A/46/L.58)

(b) KAZAKHSTAN: DRAFT RESOLUTION (A/46/L.59)

(c) KYRGYZSTAN: DRAFT RESOLUTION (A/46/L.60)

(d) UZBEKISTAN: DRAFT RESOLUTION (A/46/L.61)

(e) ARMENIA: DRAFT RESOLUTION (A/46/L.62)

(f) TAJIKISTAN: DRAFT RESOLUTION (A/46/L.63)

(g) TURKMENISTAN: DRAFT RESOLUTION (A/46/L.64)

(h) AZERBAIJAN: DRAFT RESOLUTION (A/46/L.65)

(i) SAN MARINO: DRAFT RESOLUTION (A/46/L.66)

The PRESIDENT (interpretation from Arabic): I should now like to invite the General Assembly to consider the positive recommendations by the Security Council on the applications for admission to membership in the United Nations of the Republic of Moldova, the Republic of Kazakhstan, the Republic of Kyrgyzstan, the Republic of Uzbekistan, the Republic of Armenia, the

(The President)

Republic of Tajikistan, Turkmenistan, the Republic of Azerbaijan and the Republic of San Marino.

The Assembly is considering their applications for admission forthwith in order to give States recommended by the Security Council for membership in our Organization the opportunity, if the General Assembly acts favourably on their requests, to participate as soon as possible in the work of the United Nations.

If there is no objection, we shall proceed accordingly.

It was so decided.

The PRESIDENT (interpretation from Arabic): The Security Council has recommended the admission of the Republic of Moldova (A/46/870), the Republic of Kazakhstan (A/46/853) and the Republic of Kyrgyzstan (A/46/860). The Security Council has further recommended the admission of the Republic of Uzbekistan (A/46/861), the Republic of Armenia (A/46/859), the Republic of Tajikistan (A/46/862), Turkmenistan (A/46/871) and the Republic of Azerbaijan (A/46/880). The Security Council has also recommended the admission of the Republic of San Marino (A/46/885).

The draft resolutions concerning the admission of these new Members are contained in documents A/46/L.58 to A/46/L.66.

In connection with draft resolutions A/46/L.58 to A/46/L.64 on the admission to membership in the United Nations of the Republic of Moldova, the Republic of Kazakhstan, the Republic of Kyrgyzstan, the Republic of Uzbekistan, the Republic of Armenia, the Republic of Tajikistan and Turkmenistan, respectively, in addition to the countries listed in those documents the following countries have become co-sponsors: Bangladesh, the Congo, Kenya, Mali, Saint Kitts and Nevis, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines and Sao Tome and Principe.

(The President)

In connection with draft resolution A/46/L.65 on the admission to membership in the United Nations of the Republic of Azerbaijan, in addition to the countries listed in that document the following countries have become co-sponsors: Bangladesh, Burundi, the Congo, Mali, the Marshall Islands, Sao Tome and Principe and Suriname.

In connection with draft resolution A/46/L.66 on the admission to membership in the United Nations of the Republic of San Marino, in addition to the countries listed in that document, the following countries have become co-sponsors: Afghanistan, Bahamas, Bangladesh, Burundi, Cape Verde, the Congo, the Democratic People's Republic of Korea, Djibouti, Ecuador, Fiji, Guinea Bissau, Kuwait, Madagascar, Maldives, the Marshall Islands, the Federated States of Micronesia, Oman, the Philippines, Qatar, Sao Tome and Principe, Somalia, Thailand, Uruguay and Yugoslavia.

We shall consider first draft resolution A/46/L.58 on the admission of the Republic of Moldova to membership in the United Nations.

May I take it that the General Assembly accepts the recommendation of the Security Council and adopts draft resolution A/46/L.58 by acclamation?

Draft resolution A/46/L.58 was adopted (resolution 46/223)

The PRESIDENT (interpretation from Arabic): I therefore declare the Republic of Moldova admitted to membership in the United Nations.

I request the Chief of Protocol to escort the delegation of the Republic of Moldova to its place in the General Assembly Hall.

The delegation of the Republic of Moldova was escorted to its place in the General Assembly Hall.

The PRESIDENT (interpretation from Arabic): We shall now consider draft resolution A/46/L.59 on the admission of the Republic of Kazakhstan to membership in the United Nations.

(The President)

May I take it that the General Assembly accepts the recommendation of the Security Council and adopts draft resolution A/46/L.59 by acclamation?

Draft resolution A/46/L.59 was adopted (resolution 46/224)

The PRESIDENT (interpretation from Arabic): I therefore declare the Republic of Kazakhstan admitted to membership in the United Nations.

I request the Chief of Protocol to escort the delegation of the Republic of Kazakhstan to its place in the General Assembly Hall.

The delegation of the Republic of Kazakhstan was escorted to its place in the General Assembly Hall.

The PRESIDENT (interpretation from Arabic): Next we shall consider draft resolution A/46/L.60, on the admission of the Republic of Kyrgyzstan to membership in the United Nations.

May I take it that the General Assembly accepts the recommendation of the Security Council and adopts draft resolution A/46/L.60 by acclamation?

Draft resolution A/46/L.60 was adopted (resolution 46/225).

The PRESIDENT (interpretation from Arabic): I therefore declare the Republic of Kyrgyzstan admitted to membership in the United Nations.

I request the Chief of Protocol to escort the delegation of the Republic of Kyrgyzstan to its place in the General Assembly Hall.

The delegation of the Republic of Kyrgyzstan was escorted to its place in the General Assembly Hall.

The PRESIDENT (interpretation from Arabic): We shall now consider draft resolution A/46/L.61, on the admission of the Republic of Uzbekistan to membership in the United Nations.

May I take it that the General Assembly accepts the recommendation of the Security Council and adopts draft resolution A/46/L.61 by acclamation?

Draft resolution A/46/L.61 was adopted (resolution 46/226).

The PRESIDENT (interpretation from Arabic): I therefore declare the Republic of Uzbekistan admitted to membership in the United Nations.

I request the Chief of Protocol to escort the delegation of the Republic of Uzbekistan to its place in the General Assembly Hall.

The delegation of the Republic of Uzbekistan was escorted to its place in the General Assembly Hall.

The PRESIDENT (interpretation from Arabic): We shall now consider draft resolution A/46/L.62, on the admission of the Republic of Armenia to membership in the United Nations.

(The President)

May I take it that the General Assembly accepts the recommendation of the Security Council and adopts draft resolution A/46/L.62 by acclamation?

Draft resolution A/46/L.62 was adopted (resolution 46/227).

The PRESIDENT (interpretation from Arabic): I therefore declare the Republic of Armenia admitted to membership in the United Nations.

I request the Chief of Protocol to escort the delegation of the Republic of Armenia to its place in the General Assembly Hall.

The delegation of the Republic of Armenia was escorted to its place in the General Assembly Hall.

The PRESIDENT (interpretation from Arabic): We shall now consider draft resolution A/46/L.63, on the admission of the Republic of Tajikistan to membership in the United Nations.

May I take it that the General Assembly accepts the recommendation of the Security Council and adopts draft resolution A/46/L.63 by acclamation?

Draft resolution A/46/L.63 was adopted (resolution 46/228).

The PRESIDENT (interpretation from Arabic): I therefore declare the Republic of Tajikistan admitted to membership in the United Nations.

Next we shall consider draft resolution A/46/L.64, on the admission of Turkmenistan to membership in the United Nations.

May I take it that the General Assembly accepts the recommendation of the Security Council and adopts draft resolution A/46/L.64 by acclamation?

Draft resolution A/46/L.64 was adopted (resolution 46/229).

The PRESIDENT (interpretation from Arabic): I therefore declare Turkmenistan admitted to membership in the United Nations.

I request the Chief of Protocol to escort the delegation of Turkmenistan to its place in the General Assembly Hall.

The delegation of Turkmenistan was escorted to its place in the General Assembly Hall.

The PRESIDENT (interpretation from Arabic): We shall now consider draft resolution A/46/L.65, on the admission of the Republic of Azerbaijan to membership in the United Nations.

May I take it that the General Assembly accepts the recommendation of the Security Council and adopts draft resolution A/46/L.65 by acclamation?

Draft resolution A/46/L.65 was adopted (resolution 46/230).

The PRESIDENT (interpretation from Arabic): I therefore declare the Republic of Azerbaijan admitted to membership in the United Nations.

I request the Chief of Protocol to escort the delegation of the Republic of Azerbaijan to its place in the General Assembly Hall.

The delegation of the Republic of Azerbaijan was escorted to its place in the General Assembly Hall.

The PRESIDENT (interpretation from Arabic): We shall consider next draft resolution A/46/L.66, on the admission of the Republic of San Marino to membership in the United Nations.

May I take it that the General Assembly accepts the recommendation of the Security Council and adopts draft resolution A/46/L.66 by acclamation?

Draft resolution A/46/L.66 was adopted (resolution 46/231).

The PRESIDENT (interpretation from Arabic): I therefore declare the Republic of San Marino admitted to membership in the United Nations.

(The President)

I request the Chief of Protocol to escort the delegation of the Republic of San Marino to its place in the General Assembly Hall.

The delegation of the Republic of San Marino was escorted to its place in the General Assembly Hall.

The PRESIDENT (interpretation from Arabic): It is my pleasure and privilege to welcome, on behalf of the United Nations, the Republic of Moldova, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Uzbekistan, Armenia, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan, Azerbaijan and San Marino as full-fledged Members of the United Nations. We wish them all success. We look forward hopefully to their constructive contributions in the future, both in their own interest and in the interest of mankind as a whole.

I wish the Governments and peoples of these States prosperity, happiness and success, and I trust that the United Nations will be strengthened by their membership.

(The President)

I shall now call on the representatives of the regional groups and the representative of the host country to express their welcome to the newly admitted States.

I now call on the representative of Kenya, who will speak on behalf of the Group of African States.

Mr. ADALA (Kenya): First, Mr. President, I should like to say that we, the African Group, share the warm sentiments you have expressed about our new Secretary-General. Further, on behalf of the African Group, I have the honour and privilege of extending our warmest congratulations to the Governments and the peoples of the Republics of Moldova, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Uzbekistan, Armenia, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan, Azerbaijan and San Marino on their admission to the United Nations. Within a short period of two years, since the independence of Namibia, our Organization has been the richer by 18 other new Members, representing a population of more than 140 million.

Never since the outbreak of independence in Africa in the 1960s, has the United Nations witnessed such a spectacular increase in its membership within so short a period. The reasons for the influx 30 years ago are strikingly similar today. For the majority of new Members, the changes came after several decades of sustained struggle against oppression and subjugation in one form or another, and denial of the right to self-expression and sovereignty.

The winds of change blowing across the continent of Africa three decades ago have changed direction, creating new nations out of the old order. Today, we welcome the new Members, as in the past two years, because we believe in the universality of our Organization. New membership is a step in this direction. Most important, however, is the fact that new membership helps to

(Mr. Adala, Kenya)

reaffirm our faith in fundamental human rights, in the dignity and worth of the human person, in the equal rights of men and women, and of nations, large and small.

These are indeed very significant moments in our history. The cold war era is gone - gone, hopefully, forever. Our Organization is now in a better position than ever to play crucial roles in the emerging new economic and political order. Our new and dynamic Secretary-General has initiated changes aimed at streamlining the Organization, making it more efficient and responsive to the needs of its Members. World peace and security, environment and development, debt burden and deteriorating terms of trade for the developing countries are but a few of the most pressing problems facing all of us.

Africa is always ready to play a constructive role in seeking solutions to these and other problems in the hope of making our world a better place in which to live.

We welcome the new Members in all confidence that they will equally make their positive contribution towards the improvement of our Organization and for the welfare of humanity as a whole.

The PRESIDENT (interpretation from Arabic): I call on the representative of Mongolia, who will speak on behalf of the Group of Asian States.

Mr. ERDENECHULUUN (Mongolia): In my capacity as the current Chairman of the Group of Asian States, I have the honour, on behalf of the States members of the Group, to extend our most sincere and warm congratulations to the Governments and peoples of the Republic of Azerbaijan, the Republic of Armenia, the Republic of Kazakhstan, the Republic of Kyrgyzstan, the Republic of Tajikistan, Turkmenistan, the Republic of Uzbekistan, the Republic of Moldova and the Republic of San Marino, the nine States that have just joined the family of united nations.

As a representative of an ancient nation in the heart of Asia that for many centuries maintained close relations with most of these States, I am particularly honoured to bid this message of welcome to our sister nations, newly admitted to the world Organization and wish them every success in their new tasks.

We are confident that the new Member States, enriched with thousands of years of history, culture and tradition and admired for their invaluable contribution to world civilization, will bring fresh ideas and bold initiatives into our future deliberations and bolster the joint efforts of the world community to achieve our common goals.

The members of the Asian Group of States have mandated me to reaffirm their readiness to build close relations and cooperation with the new Member States in the interest of shaping a better and safer world.

I wish to take this opportunity to extend our warmest greetings to our new Secretary-General, His Excellency Mr. Boutros Boutros-Ghali, and extend to him the good wishes of the States members of the Asian Group for great success in his highly responsible and demanding task which lies ahead. The Secretary-General may rest assured that the Asian States will consistently

(Mr. Erdenechuluun, Mongolia)

and actively support his endeavours in realizing the objectives of the United Nations Charter.

We also welcome the new Under-Secretary-General, Mr. Petrovsky, on his appointment. It is not a tribute only to his great country, but also to his unfailing dedication to the ideals of this world Organization.

The PRESIDENT (interpretation from Arabic): I now call on the representative of Hungary, who will speak on behalf of the Group of Eastern European States.

Mr. ERDOS (Hungary) (interpretation from French): As current Chairman of the Group of Eastern European States, I have the honour, on behalf of the countries of the Group, to express our best wishes to the Republic of Armenia, the Republic of Azerbaijan, the Republic of Moldova, the Republic of Kazakhstan, the Republic of Kyrgyzstan, the Republic of Uzbekistan, the Republic of San Marino, the Republic of Tajikistan and Turkmenistan upon their admission to the United Nations. It is a matter of particular satisfaction for us to welcome to our ranks new Member States that all belong to the Conference on Security and Co-operation in Europe. Doubtless, the countries of Eastern Europe will exploit this circumstance in order to put to good use a new forum for cooperation with them.

The fact that it has been a very long time since we have witnessed the simultaneous entry into our world Organization of such a large number of new Members is an eloquent manifestation of the historic changes that have been taking place in our world for some time now. The admission to the United Nations of these 9 countries and the presence among us today of their representatives are the embodiment of a new era in which the cold war is ending and unprecedented prospects are opening up for the United Nations.

To meet the challenges before mankind, we need the cooperation of each and every one of the nations on Earth. The growth of the number of Member States during this session of the General Assembly brings us closer than ever to the realization of the great principle of the universality of the United Nations. This quantitative change attests to the positive image our Organization has garnered in international public opinion, thanks to its

(Mr. Erdos, Hungary)

initiatives and the effectiveness of its activities, which in turn can further strengthen the qualitative processes at work in the United Nations.

We are living in momentous times, and the warm welcome extended to these new Members of the United Nations is in keeping with the expectations and hopes apparent in our world. Those who have knocked at the door of the United Nations and been admitted today are - with the exception of one, which, moreover, has an excellent reputation in the European arena - States that emerged following the tremendous developments in the Eurasian continent. We bid them welcome and trust that they will prevail over the inevitable difficulties awaiting them and that they will meet their commitments in the areas of security, the state of law and economic freedom.

The countries on whose behalf I speak today are convinced that the 9 new States Members of the United Nations will make invaluable contributions to the implementation of the purposes and principles of our Organization's Charter. We wish these countries and their future representatives to the United Nations much success in our common endeavour to ensure the survival of our civilization and justice and prosperity for all peoples of the world.

The PRESIDENT (interpretation from Arabic): I now call on the representative of Paraguay, who will speak on behalf of the Group of Latin American and Caribbean States.

Mr. SAGUIER CABALLERO (Paraguay) (interpretation from Spanish): On behalf of the Group of Latin American and Caribbean States, I have the great honour to welcome today the admission of a number of new States Members to the United Nations. At the same time, we should like to join our voice to yours, Mr. President, in referring to the presence in this Hall of our new Secretary-General, Mr. Boutros Boutros-Ghali, to whom we pledge our full support in his work.

(Mr. Saguier Caballero, Paraguay)

The Republics of Moldova, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Uzbekistan, Armenia, Tajikistan, Azerbaijan and Turkmenistan, which were components of the former Union of Soviet Socialist Republics, and the Republic of San Marino, which has been with us as an Observer for some time, have all stated their wish to share in our desires and ideals, committing themselves to comply with the provisions of the San Francisco Charter. We welcome them with pleasure and wish to accord them international acknowledgement at an exceptional moment in history, when the reaffirmation of such fundamental values as peace, security, respect for human rights, freedom, democracy, justice, solidarity, sovereignty and the recognition of national identities is being zealously pursued and has been achieved by most States Members of this Organization.

We should like to emphasize to the States being admitted today that one of the most important principles of the United Nations Charter is the obligation of all States to settle international disputes by peaceful means without jeopardizing international peace and security. Hence we feel that we must appeal to Armenia and Azerbaijan to refrain from using force in solving their disputes and to conduct their relations in accordance with the fundamental principles of the United Nations Charter. The Latin American and Caribbean Group welcomes them in the hope that their membership will make a positive contribution to their achieving peace, freedom and independence.

The PRESIDENT (interpretation from Arabic): I now call on the representative of Sweden - in what may be one of his final tasks in his capacity as Permanent Representative of his country before he assumes his new post in the Secretariat - to speak on behalf of the Western European and Other States.

Mr. ELIASSON (Sweden): On this significant occasion, I have the great honour, on behalf of the Group of Western European and Other States, of welcoming nine new Members to the United Nations family.

The admission of new Members is continuing evidence of the universality of the Organization and of our sincere desire to welcome all those who are prepared to adhere to the purposes and principles laid down in its Charter. It also testifies to the growing global interest and trust in the United Nations.

For States joining the United Nations, membership constitutes an important assertion of their statehood. Eight of the new Members are joining the Organization as a result of historic change. This creates opportunities as well as challenges for increased and improved international cooperation.

We thus congratulate our new Members, the republics of Armenia, Azerbaijan, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Moldova, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan and Uzbekistan. We take note that they have undertaken, under the Charter, to respect the principles of non-use of force and of peaceful settlement of disputes. We look forward to cooperating with them in our joint endeavours in the years to come.

For the Republic of San Marino, statehood goes far back in history. In a European persective, San Marino has a proven record of international cooperation. A State member of the Council of Europe, San Marino has also actively participated in the Conference on Security and Cooperation in Europe since its inception in 1975. Furthermore, San Marino is party to the statute of the International Court of Justice and is a member of the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization as well as of other international forums, making valuable contributions to their work.

(Mr. Eliasson, Sweden)

There are strong expectations at this time of fundamental international change that the United Nations will increasingly fulfil its goals, not least in areas where a truly international Organization has a unique mandate. All Member States have a responsibility to enhance and strengthen the role of the United Nations as guardian of international peace and security, as instrument for economic and social development, as vehicle for respect for human rights and as arena for meeting global challenges such as refugee crises and environmental degradation. With wider and more active participation, as evidenced today in this Assembly, and with a sharing of the rights as well as of the duties of Member States, we now have an opportunity to confront these fundamental common challenges seriously and, indeed, to meet the demands and hopes entrusted in the United Nations by people all over the world.

It is in this spirit that we warmly welcome our new Members and our new colleagues to the United Nations.

The PRESIDENT (interpretation from Arabic): I now call on Mr. Thomas Pickering, who wishes to speak as representative of the host country.

Mr. PICKERING (United States of America): Mr. President, I join with you this morning in welcoming most cordially to this Hall the new Secretary-General and the new Under-Secretary-General for Political Affairs.

Today, the United Nations admits its newest Members, the newest and oldest republics in the world. The past 12 months have seen the admission of no less than 16 States to membership. That membership brings us ever closer to the important goal of a universal Organization through which all States able and willing to carry out the obligations of the Charter may participate in, and enrich, the community of nations.

(Mr. Pickering, United States)

On behalf of the host country, I welcome with great pleasure the representatives of the newly independent States of Armenia, Azerbaijan, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Moldova, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan and Uzbekistan. Their presence here today is a demonstration of the appeal of freedom. We look forward to their contributions to the work of the international community, and we hope to cooperate closely with them in the General Assembly and throughout the United Nations system.

I also wish to extend warm greetings to the representative of the Government of the Republic of San Marino, its Foreign Minister, as the oldest republic in the world joins today the United Nations. Our countries have enjoyed friendly ties for many years; indeed, in 1861, San Marino bestowed honorary citizenship on one of our greatest presidents, Abraham Lincoln. We look forward to working closely with the representative of San Marino.

We especially note that all of these new Members have made a solemn commitment to uphold the purposes and principles of the Charter, which include the principles relating to the peaceful settlement of disputes and the non-use of force. We look forward to their abiding by those commitments, including with regard to the tragic conflict under way in Nagorno-Karabakh.

We urge both Armenia and Azerbaijan to resolve the Nagorno-Karabakh dispute on the basis of United Nations and Conference on Security and Cooperation in Europe principles. We call on both Governments to continue their cooperation with the mediation efforts led by the Russian Federation Foreign Minister, Mr. Kozyrev. Both Governments should act without delay to implement the communiqué of 20 February, signed by the Foreign Ministers of Armenia and Azerbaijan, especially the calls for the establishment of a cease-fire in Nagorno-Karabakh, the lifting of blockades in the region and the

(Mr. Pickering, United States)

return of hostages. We also support the statements made in this Assembly this morning by others urging close observance of these principles.

The United States of America takes pride in having co-sponsored the applications of all nine of these new Members. We welcome them warmly and cordially to the United Nations.

The PRESIDENT (interpretation from Arabic): The Assembly will now hear an address by the President of the Republic of Moldova.

Mr. Mircea Snegur, President of the Republic of Moldova, was escorted to the rostrum.

The PRESIDENT (interpretation from Arabic): On behalf of the General Assembly, I have the honour to welcome to the United Nations the President of the Republic of Moldova, Mr. Mircea Snegur, and to invite him to address the Assembly.

President SNEGUR (spoke in Romanian; English text furnished by the delegation): Allow me to express our gratitude to the members of the Security Council for their unanimous recommendation that the Republic of Moldova be admitted to the United Nations. I should like at the same time to thank all Member States which through their recognition of the country I represent facilitated our integration into the world community.

With the Assembly's leave, I should like briefly to review the major events that have marked the tragic history of the long-suffering Moldavian people.

In 1812, following the signature of the Treaty of Bucharest, Russia annexed the land of our forefathers: Moldova between the Dnester and the Prut, which was later known as Bessarabia. In December 1917 the Moldavian Democratic Republic was established. Independence was proclaimed, and in March 1918 union between Bessarabia and Romania took place. In 1940, as a consequence of the odious Ribbentrop-Molotov pact, Bessarabia and North Bukovina were once more annexed by force, by the Stalinist régime.

After the Second World War came the organized famine, the deportations to Siberia, the attempts on the national identity of the Moldavians, and the

(President Snegur)

forcible collectivization and industrialization of our agricultural lands. Economic units unsuitable for our country were deployed in a centralized way. All this led us into serious economic and social troubles.

The attempted putsch of August 1991, when reactionary forces tried to oppose the obvious process of disintegration under way in the former Soviet empire, was a moment of crucial significance for the destiny of my homeland. From the very beginning of the launching of that farce, the people and the democratic forces of the Republic of Moldova took a firm stand against the actions intended by the authors of the putsch. They identified the events in Moscow as an attempted coup d'état. After the failure of the putsch, on 27 August 1991, Parliament proclaimed the independence of the Republic of Moldova. I would like to emphasize the fact that this decision was taken with the concurring vote of all the members of Parliament, irrespective of their ethnic affiliation.

The time since then has clearly demonstrated that thc transition from a centralized and totalitarian State on the territory of the former Soviet empire to multiple independent democratic States is very difficult. That transition was made more complex by the many political, economic and social problems we inherited. That is why we concluded it was necessary to establish a Commonwealth of Independent States which could facilitate our progress in the transition to a market economy and, thus, towards achieving real sovereignity for its members.

The issue of the full observance of human rights, including the rights of national minorities, is of major importance for the Moldavian people. We are fully aware that the degree of respect for human rights and fundamental freedoms is an identity card for any country and indicates the very standards of its democracy.

(President Snegur)

Taking advantage of my presence at this rostrum, I would like to declare, with a full sense of responsibility, that the Republic of Moldova promotes, and will continue to promote, a State policy of protecting human rights and fundamental freedoms.

Since 1990, immediately after the first truly free and fair elections for Parliament, our Republic acceded to the main international documents relating to the protection of human rights and fundamental freedoms. On 10 September 1991, Parliament adopted a decision fully recognizing the special role of instruments concerning human rights and fundamental freedoms. Thus, the Republic of Moldova became a party to the International Covenants on human rights and to the main documents of the Conference on Security and Cooperation in Europe, including the Helsinki Final Act and the Charter of Paris. The same day, the Parliament expressed the willingness of the Republic of Moldova to become a party to all treaties and agreements concerning the non-proliferation of nuclear weapons and other weapons of mass destruction, as well as to the international agreements on the elimination of such weapons.

In that context, the admission of the Republic of Moldova as a full member of the Conference on Security and Cooperation in Europe on 30 January 1992 is indicative of the beneficial effects of democratization, and is the first step towards the creation of a State of law. These favourable changes have been welcomed with satisfaction by many delegations, both governmental and non-governmental, which recently visited our country. I would like to bring to your attention the fact that we are firmly determined to pursue fruitful cooperation with the United Nations on the issue of the observance of human rights in the Republic of Moldova.

(President Snegur)

A vital problem for my country is related to security and to the role of the Republic of Moldova in the establishment of a new world order. By virtue of its geo-political position as a bridge between West and East, the Republic of Moldova wishes to establish good relations with all countries, without becoming a party to any bloc.

At the same time, we are aware that we cannot speak about real independence so long as there are foreign military forces on the territory of the Republic of Moldova. However, we hope to be able to settle these problems through bilateral negotiations.

We are living through a period of great changes which, in our opinion, are mostly beneficial. But these developments are taking place under circumstances that do not seem to be at all simple. Moldova was the subject of monstrous experiments, and suffered frustrations which left their imprint on its very existence.

In the same context, I would like to emphasize the increasing role of the world community, which is called upon to contribute to the affirmation of true democratic values in newly independent States, and to support their efforts towards the accomplishment of economic reforms.

I take advantage of this opportunity to extend heartfelt congratulations to Armenia, Azerbaijan, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan, Uzbekistan and San Marino on their admission to the United Nations.

I would also like to express the gratitude of the Republic of Moldova to all the Member States that co-sponsored the resolution devoted to the admission of my country to the world Organization and to all the delegations present here for the unanimous support given to us.

(President Snegur)

Finally, I want to emphasize that the Republic of Moldova will strictly observe the principles enshrined in the Charter of the United Nations, and will do its best to contribute to their implementation.

The PRESIDENT (interpretation from Arabic): On behalf of the General Assembly, I wish to thank the President of the Republic of Moldova, for the statement he has just made.

Mr. Mircea Snegur, President of the Republic of Moldova, was escorted from the rostrum.

The PRESIDENT (interpretation from Arabic): I call on the Head of the delegation of the Republic of Kazakhstan, Ms. Akmaral Arystanbekova, to address the Assembly.

Ms. ARYSTANBEKOVA (Republic of Kazakhstan) (interpretation from Russian): It is indeed a great honour for me, on behalf of the President, the Government and the people of the Republic of Kazakhstan, to express our deep appreciation to all Members of the United Nations for the historic decision taken to admit our country to membership in this world-wide Organization. I would like to sincerely thank you, Mr. President, you, Mr. Secretary-General, the Chairmen of the regional groups and the representative of the host country for the support and cordial welcome given our country.

I take this opportunity to convey our sincere appreciation to the members of the Security Council for their unanimous decision to recommend Kazakhstan for membership in the United Nations.

(Ms. Arystanbekova, Kazakhstan)

In this time of truly historic change, when new countries are appearing on the map of the world, the people of Kazakhstan have expressed their resolve to create a democratic state of law. In keeping with the constitutional law on the State independence of the Republic of Kazakhstan, adopted by the Supreme Soviet of the Republic of Kazakhstan on 16 December 1991, our country, recognizing the priority of human rights and freedoms enshrined in the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, will endeavour to make a dignified entry into the world community and become an inseparable part of the world economic system. To this end, Kazakhstan has the necessary economic potential, a wealth of natural resources and a willingness and resolve to proceed consistently on the road to far-reaching economic transformations in order to establish a flourishing State with an open-market economy.

As the President of the Republic of Kazakhstan, Nursultan Abishevich Nazarbayev, as often said, our country wil endeavour to strengthen the Commonwealth of Independent States and will do everything possible to preserve the economic ties, the spiritual values and the strategic purposes of all the States that formerly made up the Soviet Union. History has unfolded in such a way that Kazakhstan, because of its unique geo-political situation, has been designated as a special kind of bridge between Asia and Europe, between the great cultures of the West and the East.

The Republic of Kazakhstan follows a peace-loving foreign policy and bases its relations with all States on the principles of international law. It advocates the development of friendly relations with all countries, regardless of their socio-economic structures, their ideology and their religious beliefs. Kazakhstan firmly declares its commitment to the principle of the non-dissemination of nuclear weapons and to the disarmament

(Ms. Arystanbekova, Kazakhstan)

process. Kazakhstan has already established diplomatic relations with a number of States and has become a full member of the Conference on Security and Cooperation in Europe.

Our country is joining the United Nations at a time when the United Nations is flourishing once again as a universal mechanism for harmonizing the positions and actions of members of the world community which are demonstrating their resolve to strengthen the Organization's stabilizing role and seeking to improve its peacemaking activities.

The Republic of Kazakhstan will firmly abide by the commitments it has entered into under the United Nations Charter, and in accordance with the Charter's purposes and principles will do everything within its power to make a real contribution to the Organization's work and to become an active member of the world family of peoples.

May I take this opportunity sincerely to welcome the other members of the Commonwealth: the Republic of Azerbaijan, the Republic of Armenia, the Republic of Kyrgyzstan, the Republic of Moldova, the Republic of Tajikistan, Turkmenistan and the Republic of Uzbekistan. I also congratulate and welcome the Republic of San Marino. We share with these other new Members joy at being admitted to membership in the United Nations.

The PRESIDENT (interpretation from Arabic): I now have pleasure in inviting the Deputy Minister for Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Kyrgyzstan, Mr. Djoumakadyr Atabekov, to address the Assembly.

Mr. ATABEKOV (Kyrgyzstan) (interpretation from Russian): I have the great honour and great pleasure, in accordance with the procedures for the admission of new Members of the United Nations established by the Secretariat, to express, on behalf of the President of the Republic of Kyrgyzstan,

(Mr. Atabekov, Kyrgyzstan)

Askar Akayev, and the people of the Republic, and on my own behalf, our sincere appreciation for the Assembly's expression of good will and political support for the true and clear interests of my new independent Republic of Kyrgyzstan.

President Askar Akayev last year stated the basic thrust and content of the current foreign policy of our Republic and of our democratic process and the way in which we are proceeding to confirm it. Therefore, I shall simply refer to what I feel are a few appropriate aspects of the situation.

The independent, free people of Kyrgyzstan are now living through a truly historic time, unprecedented in our entire existence. The Republic of Kyrgyzstan is now a full subject of international law and is joining this international Organization, which personifies the universal oneness of all mankind and which applies the principles of equality, justice, democracy, independence and peaceful, mutually beneficial cooperation between all peoples and nations of planet Earth.

You, distinguished representatives, are direct participants in and witnesses of what is happening today, which has become possible thanks to a gust of fresh wind from the mountains which has blown away the conservative and totalitarian system and brought the sweet breeze of democratic change, bringing new life to honour, dignity and national self-awareness of every citizen of Kyrgyzstan and of our Republic as a whole. Pride and self-awareness, honour and dignity, these are the pearls of my people, who are now working to become integrated into the world system and are establishing a new and worthy partnership in international, independent affairs. These pearls of our people are shining anew as a result of the broad international recognition of our independence and the incipient process of establishing diplomatic relations.

(Mr. Atabekov, Kyrgyzstan)

More than 90 States of the world have now recognized the independence of the Republic of Kyrgyzstan. On 1 February the United States Embassy opened officially in the capital of our Republic, Bishkek. Kyrgyzstan has become a member of the Conference on Security and Cooperation in Europe.

My Republic is living through difficult times, characteristic of all the Republics of the former Soviet Union, which today is the Commonwealth of Independent States. My Government is fully aware of these difficulties and is taking measures to overcome them. New and encouraging horizons are now opening up before us beyond the socio-economic problems that we face.

Your wisdom and great experience are an encouragement to us as we set forth on this path, as are your devotion to the norms and rules governing the activities of this Organization.

My people, somewhat belatedly, are setting forth on the road charted for us by fate. We believe that this is not a road of thunder, but a bright, wide road, and we are all, together, going along that road as peoples of the United Nations.

On behalf of my Government, I wish to express to the Assembly and the Security Council our sincere appreciation of the support they have given us. We assure you, Mr. President, that the Republic of Kyrgyzstan intends to act in keeping with the spirit and letter of the provisions of the United Nations Charter and the other international documents and instruments recognized by the Organization as binding instruments.

The PRESIDENT (interpretation from Arabic): I have the pleasure now of inviting the Minister for Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Uzbekistan, Mr. Ubaidulla Abdurazzakov, to address the Assembly.

Mr. ABDURAZZAKOV (Uzbekistan) (interpretation from Russian): On behalf of the President of my Republic and of the peaceful 20 million people of Uzbekistan, I express our thanks to the Security Council and the General Assembly and to the participants in this plenary meeting today for the great honour and trust that have been done us.

As we join the world community as an independent, young and sovereign State, we discover once again for ourselves the complex and contradictory world, weaved of so many global and regional interests. We can clearly understand the complexity and scale of all the problems facing the United Nations and its specialized agencies and organizations. We are aware of our responsibility to contribute to the constructive interaction between all the States and peoples of the world, as world civilization progresses.

The peoples of Uzbekistan have had a wealth of culture for millennia. We have given to the world such persons as al-Horezmi, Alisher Navoiye, Avitsenna, Oulougbek and many others. We are confident that, with the contribution of our human values, our treasures and our oriental experience, we shall enrich inter-State relations. In the unity and variety of all forms of human culture we find a guarantee for peace, stability and international and inter-State harmony.

In joining the United Nations as a Member, we declare that we recognize the Charter and the rules and regulations of inter-State relations and the requirements of international organizations within the structure of the United Nations system.

The PRESIDENT (interpretation from Arabic): It is now my pleasure to invite the Minister for Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Armenia, Mr. Raffi Hovannisian.

Mr. HOVANNISIAN (Armenia): The 2nd of March 1992 will stand forever as a special, meaningful date in Armenian history - the day when our ancient country stepped across the threshhold of the United Nations to become a Member of the international community of nations.

Today the Republic of Armenia becomes a full participant in this revered world forum, not only by right of the contributions it has brought to world civilization but also by virtue of the fact that it has reached a new, contemporary stage in its development. For the second time in this century we have achieved independence, and we intend to nurture it by continuing to deepen our commitment to democracy and other human values.

In becoming a Member of the United Nations, Armenia formally declares that it will respect, and is determined to act in accordance with, the principles and purposes set forth in the Charter and other basic documents of the United Nations. Peace, security, self-determination of peoples, human rights and freedom are concepts fundamental to the political thinking in today's Armenia, because they stem from the interests of the Armenian people as well as those of the family of nations. Consequently, Armenia's policies are not and cannot be directed against any people or country. We completely support the principle of territorial integrity and peaceful settlement of disputes. We also proclaim our devotion to the inalienable right of nations to self-determination. The events in Mountainous or Nagorno Karabakh convincingly demonstrate the tragedy that can result from the violation of

(Mr. Hovannisian, Armenia)

that right. If the international community and the United Nations in particular do not undertake measures in a timely fashion to address this issue, further tragedy will follow, with the gravest consequences for the region and the world.

On behalf of the Republic of Armenia and the Armenian people, allow me to express our gratitude to the President of the Assembly, the Secretary-General and the representatives of all the States Members of the United Nations. It is through their assistance and efforts that beginning today, next to the flag of our sister States, will wave our tricolour, the banner of our aspirations, identity and liberty.

Permit me also to express my confidence that in becoming a Member of the United Nations Armenia will do its utmost to observe and apply the guiding principles of this august body. We look forward to contributing our share to building peace, understanding and harmony among nations.

It is with great pride and deep humility that Armenia officially joins the other Members of the United Nations in our common quest to forge a happy and prosperous future for the planet that we share.

The PRESIDENT (interpretation from Arabic): It is now my pleasure to invite the Deputy Minister for Foreign Affairs of Turkmenistan, Mr. Amangeldy Rakhmanov, to address the Assembly.

Mr. RAKHMANOV (Turkmenistan) (interpretation from Russian): I should first like to thank Mr. Shihabi, the President of the forty-sixth session of the General Assembly, for his very warm welcome. I take this opportunity to thank the members of the Security Council for their unanimous recommendation that our country be admitted to membership in the United Nations. I also thank all the Member States here for their sincere efforts in

(Mr. Rakhmanov, Turkmenistan)

support of our application for membership, as well as Mr. Boutros-Ghali for his invaluable assistance.

With the proclamation of a democratic State by the Parliament of our Republic - after the 27 October 1991 national referendum - national independence and statehood have acquired qualitatively new importance for Turkmenistan.

The foreign policy of Turkmenistan derives from the peace-loving traditions of the people of Turkmenistan. Our main principle is the establishment and development of mutually beneficial ties on the basis of equality and contacts with all States and promotion of the strengthening of international peace and security. That is why our policy is in keeping with the purposes and principles of the United Nations.

The fact that our application for admission to the United Nations was unanimously supported shows that the international community has focused its attention on Turkmenistan. It also demonstrates the general aspiration of the Members to ensure friendship and harmony between all regions and countries of the world.

The admission of my country to membership in the United Nations can be of great importance at this particular juncture, when the United Nations is continuing to demonstrate its viability and is playing a growing role in the maintenance of international peace and security, the settlement of regional conflicts, old and new, and the quest for solutions to global problems.

Against that background I should like to assure the Assembly that Turkmenistan, as a Member of the United Nations, undertakes to fulfil the obligations it has entered into under the Charter of the United Nations and that it will live up to the hopes placed in it by the United Nations, and in

(Mr. Rakhmanov, Turkmenistan)

particular by all the members of the Security Council, who, as was emphasized in the statement by the President of the Security Council when it adopted resolution 741 (1992), containing the recommendation for the admission of Turkmenistan to membership in the United Nations, are convinced that Turkmenistan will make a significant contribution to the work of the Organization.

(Mr. Rakhmanov, Turkmenistan)

We aspire to developing good-neighbourliness, friendly relations and broad-ranging economic, environmental, political and human cooperation with all States; even before the admission of Turkmenistan to the United Nations we had therefore established diplomatic relations with a number of States. We have become a member of the Conference on Security and Co-operation in Europe and the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development, which links progress in Turkmenistan to our cooperation with the international community.

We know we have our own special contribution to make to the development of international cooperation. Along with other factors, Turkmenistan's geo-political position as an Asian State naturally determines the nature of our contribution and our foreign policy goals. Asia is not isolated from the other continents; its ties with the rest of the world involve a broad range of problems, from economic to cultural. In this context, Turkmenistan can serve as a kind of link between Asia and Europe, a bridge uniting those two civilizations.

We trust that following our admission to membership of the United Nations, that interrelationship, and relations based on mutually beneficial cooperation, will continue to strengthen.

In conclusion, I want once again to express our sincere appreciation to all Members of the United Nations that supported our application and that have welcomed Turkmenistan to the United Nations. I wish also to welcome and congratulate the Republic of Kazakhstan, the Republic of Kyrgyzstan, the Republic of Tajikistan, the Republic of Uzbekistan, the Republic of Azerbaijan, the Republic of Armenia, the Republic of Moldova and San Marino on their admission to membership of the United Nations.

The PRESIDENT (interpretation from Arabic): I call on the Minister for Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Azerbaijan, Mr. Gusain Sadykhov.

Mr. SADYKHOV (Azerbaijan) (spoke in Azerbaijani; interpretation from Russian text furnished by the delegation): On behalf of the people of the Republic of Azerbaijan, its Parliament and President, may I say how very pleased I am at the decision just taken by the General Assembly of the United Nations regarding my country's admission to membership in this prestigious international Organization, which is quite rightly considered a symbol of the struggle of democracy against totalitarianism.

For the Republic of Azerbaijan, admission to the United Nations is of great significance. Direct participation in the work of the United Nations will help Azerbaijan solve many problems that remain from the period of totalitarianism and from the time of our people's struggle for independence. We are convinced of this because of the importance and role of the United Nations in the world as an effective universal body representing justice, democracy and progress, as we have recently seen. But there will also be reciprocity.

Azerbaijan, the first secular democratic State in the history of the East, possesses what is required to make a contribution to the common cause. We share the concern of the United Nations over global threats to human civilization and intend to do what we can by participating in international programmes to remove those threats.

On this day of such special significance to my people, when Azerbaijan becomes a full Member of the United Nations, I cannot fail to tell members of the situation in the Republic, and I do so with anguish in my heart. There is

(Mr. Sadykhov, Azerbaijan)

mourning today throughout the territory of Azerbaijan. People grieve for the civilian inhabitants of the town of Khodzhala who have died in recent days.

At the same time, I wish to say from this rostrum that the Republic of Azerbaijan formulates its State policy in keeping with the principles of democracy and the rule of law, which are based on human rights and freedoms, territorial integrity and the inviolability of borders. Solutions to the problems of the region must be implemented exclusively in accordance with the principles of the United Nations. Azerbaijan shares the lofty ideals of the world community and is deeply interested in broad international cooperation. Azerbaijan makes every effort to that end.

But, as the saying goes, one gets stronger as one travels along - to which I would add, travelling together makes the road shorter.

(spoke in Russian)

In concluding my statement, I should like to express my sincere thanks to the peoples and Governments of the States members of the Security Council and to the representatives of all those States that supported the draft resolution on the admission of my country to membership in the United Nations.

I should also like warmly to congratulate the peoples and Governments of all those States which today have become Members of this prestigious international Organization. My heartfelt congratulations to the peoples and Governments of Moldova, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Uzbekistan, Armenia, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan and San Marino on this great day in the history of their countries.

The PRESIDENT (interpretation from Arabic): I call next on the Minister for Foreign and Political Affairs of the Republic of San Marino, Mr. Gabriele Gatti.

Mr. GATTI (San Marino) (spoke in Italian; English text furnished by the delegation): Allow me on behalf of the people and the Government of the Republic of San Marino to express our deep-felt and sincere thanks for the unanimous support given to San Marino's application for admission. In particular, I wish to thank you, Mr. President, and through you the Secretary-General, all members of the Security Council and the numerous countries which supported the draft resolution.

Today the universality of the United Nations has become a tangible reality for the Republic of San Marino, a reality that I am glad to acknowledge here on behalf of a small State whose only strength has always been its long-standing and never-abandoned faith in the values of peace, justice, freedom and democracy.

Today for the first time, San Marino crossed the threshold of the United Nations building in a complete and definitive way, even if some might think with a certain delay. But I can assure the Assembly that the Republic of San Marino is here now after mature reflection, after having gained important and useful experience through its Observer Missions accredited to the United Nations in New York and to the United Nations Offices in Geneva and Vienna. San Marino is here now after having actively participated in the various organizations of the United Nations family and after having followed with special commitment the work of the Conference on Security and Cooperation in Europe and of the Council of Europe, over whose Committee of Ministers San Marino presided for a six-month term.

(Mr. Gatti, San Marino)

In a timely and reasoned manner, my country has adopted today's serious problems and great challenges, convinced that it can make a serious and sincere contribution to all causes aiming at mankind's peace and freedom.

Nowadays, commitment by the United Nations is the only power able to improve our world. It is to this that San Marino wanted to testify by joining to the Organization.

I am well aware that my country's contribution will not be determinant. Nevertheless, the Republic is willing to make its contribution. San Marino will act according to the principles and the Charter of the United Nations. It is determined to encourage the willingness to change and correct the present situation, so that willingness will not weaken because of the complexity of today's problems. My country is firmly persuaded that peace can be achieved and maintained only through justice and indissociable values, such as human freedom, respect for dignity and support for solidarity.

This Assembly can be sure that so long as one human being - even only one human being in the entire world - is deprived of his freedom or his rights, that man will enjoy the solidarity and support of San Marino.

Whoever enters the territory of the Republic can read these words at the border: "Welcome to the ancient land of liberty". This inscription was affixed permanently a few years ago for essentially touristic reasons: a country receiving more than 3 million tourists a year has to pay attention to its image and make a significant first impression.

However, it must be recalled that the foundation of our small community in the fourth century by a fugitive from tormented Dalmatia, and long resistance to aggression and unjust acts gave us an image we are proud of. It has been written: "San Marino rises on an isolated mountain, herald of freedom".

(Mr. Gatti, San Marino)

The people of San Marino have always taken care not to cause dangerous enmities or sentiments of rivalry. They did not let tantalizing dreams of duty-free zones, freer markets and tax-free heavens endanger a reality characterized by the great humanity and the certain patriarchal structure natural to a small community. They did not want to endanger their freedom by subjecting it to economics.

Today, my idealistic fellow-citizens have partially removed that inscription: those words recalling our ancient freedom can be read only by those leaving the Republic. They wanted to confirm that today's admission to the United Nations not only represents a recognition of their buffeted and ancient freedom, but also their willingness to defend it by taking into account the freedom of others, according to the rules and provisions of international law. San Marino has established an institutional and legislative structure aiming at ever greater respect for individual rights and freedoms.

I should like to express my satisfaction at the fact that San Marino's admission coincides with the admission of other States, which only recently became independent and to which I wish a happy future.

Let me conclude by thanking you again, Mr. President, and by wishing the United Nations the achievement of even greater success.

I hope the General Assembly will cooperate to encourage solidarity among peoples, in the fields of political cooperation and economic ethics, against wars and the threat and use of force, and against racism in any form, in order finally to defeat the causes of poverty and to fight tirelessly against hunger and drugs, so that everyone may enjoy real freedom and exercise his civil, political, economic, social and cultural rights.

(Mr. Gatti, San Marino)

San Marino wishes that mankind's final victory over all that is against him may take place through the intervention of the United Nations.

The PRESIDENT (interpretation from Arabic): I should like to announce that the flags of the Republic of Moldova, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Uzbekistan, Armenia, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan, Azerbaijan and San Marino will be raised at a ceremony that will take place in front of the delegates' entrance immediately after the adjournment of this plenary meeting.

I now call on the representative of Portugal, who will speak on behalf of the States members of the European Community.

Mr. REINO (Portugal) (interpretation from French): I have the honour to speak for the first time in this Assembly on behalf of the 12 members of the European Community.

Mr. President, first, I should like to associate myself with the good wishes you have been extended to Mr. Boutros Boutros-Ghali who is participating in the work of our Assembly for the first time in his capacity as our new Secretary-General. We welcome him most warmly, and the European Community and its members once again extend to him their full and active support.

On this solemn occasion, the 12 States members of the European Community are most pleased to note the admission of nine new Members to the United Nations: the Republic of Moldova, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Uzbekistan, Armenia, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan, Azerbaijan and San Marino.

The 12 States members of the European Community are particularly pleased to have sponsored the membership of these new member States when we co-sponsored the draft resolutions put before the Assembly.

This is a most felicitous and historic event. The admission of these new Members is a renewed expression of the universality of our Organization and its desire to welcome in its midst all those States that pledge to adhere to the principles and purposes set out in the United Nations Charter.

(Mr. Reino, Portugal)

Let us recall Article 4 of the United Nations Charter, which stipulates that membership in the United Nations is open:

"to all peace-loving states which accept the obligations contained in the present Charter and, in the judgment of the Organization, are able and willing to carry out these obligations".

Among these obligations upon Member States is respect for the principles of non-recourse to force and the settlement of international disputes by peaceful means. These obligations also include the commitment to exercise tolerance and to live in peace with one another in a spirit of good-neighbourliness.

With regard to two of the States which today have become Members of our Organization - Armenia and Azerbaijan - the Twelve wish to state their position in the light of the ongoing fighting and its tragic consequences in that region.

The commitment undertaken by Armenia and Azerbaijan to respect the principles and purposes of the Charter was recalled by the President of the Security Council in his statements of 29 January and 14 February. It has been echoed in the principles and commitments entered into in the Conference on Security and Co-operation in Europe (CSCE), which were enshrined in the Paris Charter for a New Europe of 21 November 1990. Armenia and Azerbaijan have recently joined that Conference, which has actively endeavoured in recent weeks to help them develop a peace plan and has just agreed to recommendations in that connection.

The Twelve wish to emphasize the urgent need for a negotiated settlement to the dispute between those two States. As early as January, they took official steps in that direction vis-à-vis the authorities of the two countries, and note with satisfaction that the CSCE mission of good offices, which recently went to the region from 11 to 18 February, was welcomed by all

(Mr. Reino, Portugal)

parties. They take note of the agreement entered into at the Moscow meeting on 20 February between the Ministers of Foreign Affairs of Armenia and Azerbaijan - on the initiative of the Russian Federation - but they deeply deplore the fact that its implementation has encountered serious difficulties, as demonstrated by the recent outbreak of violence in the region.

The 12 States members of the European Community therefore urgently appeal to Armenia and Azerbaijan that, with a view to ensuring respect for the principles and purposes of our Organization, which they have just joined, they settle their dispute by peaceful means.

The PRESIDENT (interpretation from Arabic): I now call on the representative of Hungary, who will speak on behalf of Czechoslovakia, Hungary and Poland.

Mr. ERDOS (Hungary) (interpretation from French): I have the honour to speak on behalf of Czechoslovakia, Poland and Hungary, and to convey our sincere congratulations to the new Member States that have just been admitted to the United Nations. Their presence here among us reflects their commitment to abide by their obligations under the Charter of the United Nations. It is on the basis of statements made by those States to that effect that the Security Council recommended their admission to membership in the United Nations and that the General Assembly has just decided to endorse that recommendation.

Among the States making such statements - which are required for admission to the United Nations - are Armenia and Azerbaijan. As is known, those two countries have already taken a very important first step towards joining in international life. The ministerial meeting of the countries participating in the Conference on Security and Co-operation in Europe (CSCE), held in late January in Prague, decided to follow up the requests for

(Mr. Erdos, Hungary)

admission to the Helsinki process made by Armenia and Azerbaijan, which thus became full members of the CSCE. The CSCE States proceed upon the basis of the principle that participants in the Conference - those that have been there from the very beginning of the process as well as those that have only recently joined - must unreservedly accept the principles and commitments contained in the 1975 Helsinki Final Act, in the 1990 Charter of Paris for a New Europe, and in the other CSCE documents, and that they be willing to implement them.

Czechoslovakia, Poland and Hungary nevertheless note with deep concern, in connection with the current dispute over the question of Nagorno-Karabakh in Azerbaijan, that armed conflicts continue, further poisoning relations between Armenia and Azerbaijan. The three States regret that they must note that attitudes in the two countries on this question are hardly in keeping with the purposes and principles of the Charter or with the commitments entered into under the CSCE instruments. Those principles and obligations provide for the non-use of force and the peaceful settlement of disputes. They also include respect for human rights, including the rights of individuals belonging to national minorities. Problems relating to ethnic communities cannot be resolved only through the full implementation of human rights and fundamental freedoms, and in this regard the use of force is inadmissible and unacceptable.

Czechoslovakia, Poland and Hungary are firmly convinced that the instruments of the United Nations and the CSCE are an adequate basis for settling the problem in the region by peaceful means, in keeping with the norms of international law. They hope that the authorities of Armenia and Azerbaijan will be able to exploit the active support of the Conference, particularly through its mission of good offices, in order to find a solution

(Mr. Erdos, Hungary)

to the conflict within respect for the principles of the CSCE and the implementation of national majority and minority rights, and in the spirit of tolerance, mutual understanding and good-neighbourliness. Proceeding in that way, the two countries would be acting fully in accordance with the provisions of Chapter VI of the United Nations Charter, which provide that parties to any dispute, the continuance of which is likely to endanger the maintenance of international peace and security, shall seek a solution by, inter alia, resort to regional arrangements.

Czechoslovakia, Poland and Hungary, while welcoming the admission of those two countries to membership in the United Nations, would in this context take the opportunity to draw their attention to the absolute need for respect for international commitments voluntarily undertaken. They express the hope that today's solemn admission to membership of Armenia and Azerbaijan in the United Nations will give new impetus to efforts the authorities of the two countries must continue to make with the utmost conviction with a view to arriving as quickly as possible at a settlement of the differences between them, so that the Armenian and Azerbaijani peoples can devote themselves to building their societies in respect for the political and economic rights of all citizens, without any distinction whatsoever as to language, religion or national origin.

The PRESIDENT (interpretation from Arabic): I call on the representative of Ukraine, who will speak on behalf of Belarus, the Russian Federation and Ukraine.

Mr. OUDOVENKO (Ukraine) (interpretation from Russian): Today, we have witnessed and participated in an important and truly historic moment. Nine new Members have joined the United Nations family. For Belarus, Russia and Ukraine, as founding Members of this Organization, this event is of particular significance, because Azerbaijan, Armenia, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Moldova, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan and Uzbekistan, all participants in the recently established Commonwealth of Independent States, have been admitted to full membership in this, the most prestigious international, intergovernmental Organization.

In this connection, I should like to emphasize one other important point. These States joining the United Nations have declared their willingness to abide fully by all the obligations in the Charter and by the norms of international law, which will certainly help to bolster the positive changes that have occurred within the borders of the former USSR and in the world in recent times. We have no doubt that they will make an important contribution in all areas of United Nations activity.

In this important event today we also see the other side, the reciprocal side, if you will: the United Nations as the centre of the peacemaking efforts of the international community could radically help to promote a settlement of the conflicts and disputes which unfortunately still cast a shadow over certain new Members of this Organization.

We are thinking here of that dangerous hotbed of tension which has developed around Nagorno-Karabakh. Belarus, Russia and Ukraine cannot but be

(Mr. Oudovenko, Ukraine)

concerned over what is happening in that region: first of all, because we are linked with Azerbaijan and Armenia through deep historical ties in all areas, and the fighting occurring in that region, which is the immediate vicinity of our borders, cannot but have a negative impact on the lives of our peoples; and, secondly, because during a conflict people die and human rights are violated, to neither of which can we remain indifferent.

We therefore call for an immediate cease-fire and an immediate beginning to full-scale talks to settle the conflict, with the participation of all interested parties. Our States support any constructive steps which could lead to the attainment of this goal, including the recent important initiatives undertaken within the context of the Conference on Security and Cooperation in Europe (CSCE), and also support the possibility of involving the peacemaking mechanisms of the United Nations. In particular, we would commend the recent observer mission from the CSCE to Nagorno-Karabakh, and we would hope that consideration of its conclusions, at meetings of the senior officials of the CSCE in Prague, will encourage movement towards a settlement of the conflict between Armenia and Azerbaijan.

Our States, for their part, have done and will continue to do everything possible, and will make active efforts to establish a dialogue between the parties to the conflict. This can be seen from the recent talks in Moscow between the Foreign Ministers of Azerbaijan, Armenia and Russia.

Today's meeting is of particular significance to me personally, for this is my last day as Permanent Representative of independent Ukraine to the United Nations. I have been in this position for more than seven years now. In the course of those years I, like my colleagues, have witnessed the growing ability of the United Nations, through collective efforts, to find solutions

(Mr. Oudovenko, Ukraine)

to the most complex and age-old conflicts and crisis situations. As I leave these walls, I should like to express the conviction that our Organization will not remain aloof from the tragedy of Nagorno-Karabakh, and that it will help the neighbouring peoples of Azerbaijan and Armenia to set forth on the road towards a civilized solution to the problems existing between them.

In conclusion, Sir, I wish you every success as you continue you work as President of this session. We have greatly appreciated your initiatives, your activeness and your wisdom.

I should also like to congratulate the Secretary-General, Mr. Boutros Boutros Ghali, on his appointment to this important post, and to express my conviction that his experience and diplomatic mastery will indeed ensure that he will be able successfully to help the Organization deal with the problems facing it; we reaffirm our firm support for his work.

We wish the new Under-Secretary-General, Mr. Petrovsky, every success in his new position.

The PRESIDENT (interpretation from Arabic): The flags of the republics that have been admitted today will be raised at a ceremony to take place immediately after the adjournment of this plenary meeting.

AGENDA ITEM 8 (continued)

ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA AND ORGANIZATION OF WORK

(a) LETTER DATED 25 FEBRUARY 1992 FROM THE PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE OF EGYPT TO THE UNITED NATIONS ADDRESSED TO THE PRESIDENT OF THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY (A/46/887) REQUESTING REALLOCATION OF AGENDA ITEM 105 (REVIEW OF THE EFFICIENCY OF THE ADMINISTRATIVE AND FINANCIAL FUNCTIONING OF THE UNITED NATIONS)

(b) NOTE BY THE SECRETARY-GENERAL (A/46/761/Add.1) REQUESTING REOPENING OF THE CONSIDERATION OF AGENDA ITEM 18 (j) (CONFIRMATION OF THE APPOINTMENT OF THE SECRETARY-GENERAL OF THE UNITED NATIONS CONFERENCE ON TRADE AND DEVELOPMENT)

(c) REQUEST FOR THE INCLUSION OF AN ADDITIONAL ITEM SUBMITTED BY THE SECRETARY-GENERAL (A/46/236)

The PRESIDENT (interpretation from Arabic): We turn now to the request contained in the letter dated 25 February 1992 from the Permanent Representative of Egypt to the United Nations addressed to the President of the General Assembly (A/46/887).

Members will recall that at its third plenary meeting, held on 20 September 1991, the General Assembly allocated to the Fifth Committee agenda item 105, entitled "Review of the efficiency of the administrative and financial functioning of the United Nations". The letter before the Assembly sets out a request that aspects of the item concerning the restructuring of the Secretariat as outlined in the note by the Secretary-General in document A/46/882 be considered directly in plenary meeting. It is understood, however, that the Fifth Committee will remain seized of the item for its customary consideration.

Since the request now before the Assembly involves reconsideration of the decision taken at our third plenary meeting on the allocation of this item, a decision is required under rule 81 of the rules of procedure of the General Assembly.

(The President)

If there is no objection, I shall take it that the Assembly agrees to reconsider the question of the allocation of agenda item 105.

It was so decided.

The PRESIDENT (interpretation from Arabic): In the light of the decision just taken, we may now proceed to consider the request contained in document A/46/887. According to that request, aspects of item 105 concerning the restructuring of the Secretariat, as outlined in the note by the Secretary-General in document A/46/882, will be considered directly in plenary meeting, on the understanding that the Fifth Committee will remain seized of the item for its customary consideration.

If there is no objection, I shall take it that the General Assembly agrees to the request set out in document A/46/887.

It was so decided.

The PRESIDENT (interpretation from Arabic): In accordance with that decision, agenda item 105 will be considered at this meeting as the last item for this morning.

Next we turn to the note by the Secretary-General contained in document A/46/761/Add. 1 concerning the confirmation of the appointment of the Secretary-General of the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development. The Secretary-General states in his note that in order to enable the General Assembly to take the required action it will be necessary to reopen consideration of sub-item (j) of agenda item 18.

Under the circumstances, may I take it that the Assembly has no objection to reopening consideration of sub-item (j) of agenda item 18?

It was so decided.

The PRESIDENT (interpretation from Arabic): In accordance with that decision, sub-item (j) of agenda item 18 will be considered at this meeting.

We now turn to the note by the Secretary-General contained in document A/46/236.

(The President)

In his note, the Secretary-General, pursuant to rule 15 of the rules of procedure of the General Assembly, requests that an additional item of an important and urgent character, entitled "Financing of the United Nations Protection Force", be placed on the agenda of the forty-sixth session. Owing to the nature of the item, the Secretary-General further requests that the item be allocated to the Fifth Committee.

Under the circumstances of the present case, may I take it that the General Assembly agrees that the provision of rule 40 of the rules of procedure, which would require a meeting of the General Committee on the question of the inclusion of an additional item on the agenda, can be waived?

It was so decided.

The PRESIDENT (interpretation from Arabic): May I further take it that the Assembly wishes to include in the agenda of the forty-sixth session an additional item entitled "Financing of the United Nations Protection Force", and to allocate that item to the Fifth Committee?

It was so decided.

The PRESIDENT (interpretation from Arabic): The Chairman of the Fifth Committee will be informed of the decision just taken.

AGENDA ITEM 18 (continued)

APPOINTMENTS TO FILL VACANCIES IN SUBSIDIARY ORGANS AND OTHER APPOINTMENTS

(j) CONFIRMATION OF THE APPOINTMENT OF THE SECRETARY-GENERAL OF THE UNITED NATIONS CONFERENCE ON TRADE AND DEVELOPMENT: NOTE BY THE SECRETARY-GENERAL (A/46/761/Add.1)

(k) APPOINTMENT OF MEMBERS OF THE INTERNATIONAL CIVIL SERVICE COMMISSION: REPORT OF THE FIFTH COMMITTEE (A/46/878/Add.1)

The PRESIDENT (interpretation from Arabic): I now invite members to turn their attention to document A/46/761/Add.1, containing a note by the Secretary-General on sub-item (j) of agenda item 18 dealing with the

(The President)

confirmation of the appointment of the Secretary-General of the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development.

In his note of 25 February 1992 the Secretary-General proposes that the appointment of Mr. Kenneth Dadzie be extended for a further period of one year, through 31 March 1993.

May I take it that the General Assembly wishes to confirm the extension of the appointment of Mr. Kenneth Dadzie?

It was so decided.

The PRESIDENT (interpretation from Arabic): We have thus concluded our consideration of sub-item (j) of agenda item 18.

We turn next to the report (A/46/878/Add.1) of the Fifth Committee concerning the appointment of members of the International Civil Service Commission. In paragraph 4 of its report the Fifth Committee recommends that the General Assembly should appoint Mr. Valery Fiodorovich Keniaykin as a member of the International Civil Service Commission for a term of office beginning on 2 March 1992 and ending on 31 December 1992.

May I take it that the General Assembly approves this recommendation?

It was so decided.

The PRESIDENT (interpretation from Arabic): We have thus concluded this stage of our consideration of sub-item (k) of agenda item 18.

AGENDA ITEM 105 (continued)

REVIEW OF THE EFFICIENCY OF THE ADMINISTRATIVE AND FINANCIAL FUNCTIONING OF THE UNITED NATIONS

(a) NOTE BY THE SECRETARY-GENERAL (A/46/882)

(b) DRAFT RESOLUTION A/46/L.67

The PRESIDENT (interpretation from Arabic): In accordance with the decision taken earlier this morning, the General Assembly will now consider agenda item 105, entitled "Review of the efficiency of the administrative and financial functioning of the United Nations".

In this connection, the Assembly has before it a note by the Secretary-General contained in document A/46/882 and a draft resolution which has been circulated this morning as document A/46/L.67.

As concerns the draft resolution, in the fourth line of operative paragraph 3 (e) the words "so that" should be replaced by "in a senior post and". The last three lines of the subparagraph will now read:

"that, as a general rule, no national of a Member State should succeed a national of that State in a senior post and there should be no monopoly on senior posts by nationals of any State or group of States".

In fairness to all members, I wish to consult them before proceeding to discuss and take a decision on the draft resolution before us. I should like to quote from rule 78 of the rules of procedure in regard to proposals before the Assembly, which provides:

"As a general rule, no proposal shall be discussed or put to the vote at any meeting of the General Assembly unless copies of it have been circulated to all delegations not later than the day preceding the meeting."

(The President)

In view of the desire of members to dispose of this item expeditiously, I should like to seek their concurrence with the request that we proceed to discuss and take a decision on the draft resolution contained in document A/46/L.67, even though it has been distributed only this morning.

Unless I hear any objections, I will take it that the Assembly agrees with this proposal.

It was so decided.

The PRESIDENT (interpretation from Arabic): The Assembly will now take a decision on the draft resolution. May I take it that the Assembly adopts draft resolution A/46/L.67?

The draft resolution, as orally amended, was adopted (resolution 46/232).

The PRESIDENT (interpretation from Arabic): Before calling the first speaker in explanation of vote, may I remind delegations that, in accordance with General Assembly decision 34/401, explanations of vote are limited to 10 minutes and should be made by delegations from their seats.

Mr. WILENSKI (Australia): My delegation welcomes the resolution just adopted and the initiatives announced on 7 February by the Secretary-General, who is, happily, present with us today, as the beginnings of a major change in the Secretariat which will enable it far better to support the entire Organization's response to the challenges already upon us.

There has over the past few weeks been much debate about the merits of this or that particular clause in the draft resolution or this or that particular change announced by the Secretary-General. It is as well, therefore, for us to raise our sights and to recall why this process launched by the Secretary-General is regarded as being of such fundamental importance by so many delegations.

(Mr. Wilenski, Australia)

The issue of Secretariat reform has been almost perennially on the agenda, but, at least over the past decade, discussion has principally focused not on real reform but on issues of efficiency, economy and cost-cutting. The end of the cold war has at last opened up the possibility of the Organization's realizing its full potential and has also cleared the blocks to real Secretariat reform.

(Mr. Milenski, Australia)

Indeed, not only is reform now possible, but it is essential - the Organization will achieve its potential only if the Secretariat both prepares the way and provides the necessary underpinning. It must exercise creativity, imagination and intellectual leadership in developing policy options for the intergovernmental organs to consider and decide upon; decision-making clearly rests with the Governments, but the development of policy approaches - to be accepted, modified or rejected - is a proper and now necessary role for the Secretariat. Furthermore, the Secretariat must use the same creativity and drive to carry out these decisions of the intergovernmental organs and to carry out operations which already both quantitatively and qualitatively far exceed those attempted during the cold war.

Thus, in seeking reform of the Secretariat, our focus goes well beyond affecting managerial efficiency to creating the organizational capacity for the achievement of real improvements in international peace and security, economic development, human rights, the environment and many other vital areas. It is with only a little hyperbole that we can say that past efforts at reform of the United Nations Secretariat were concerned with helping to save money; this attempt, if it proves in the longer term to be successful, will be concerned with helping save humankind.

I turn now to the specific changes. It is clear that a major factor inhibiting the work of the Secretariat has been the excessive compartmentalization and fragmentation of its various parts, and the consequent lack of coordination and dissipation of effort. These limitations of structure placed an excessive strain on the Secretary-General in seeking to control and direct the Secretariat's activities in a purposeful manner. Thus,

(Mr. Wilenski, Australia)

a central principle referred to both in this resolution and in the Secretary-General's Note is the rationalization of the Secretariat so as to group its major activities on a functional basis into a smaller number of Departments. My delegation welcomes the progress made by the Secretary-General in this direction, in what he has described as the first phase of reform. We hope he will rationalize still further in the second phase.

In this connection we would emphasize that the aim of such rationalization is to increase the effectiveness of the Organization in carrying out its programmes. To measure the relative importance of different activities by counting the number of Departments or Offices devoted to them was very much the old way of thinking at the United Nations. Thus, we welcome the Secretary-General's statement that he has redressed the fragmentation that existed in relation to the economic and social programmes and regrouped the various units under unified leadership. We note that the political area lags behind on this criterion, and on this definition fragmentation continues in the number of areas involved. We would hope that in the second phase the Secretary-General would consider bringing these under unified leadership also.

Of course, simply grouping these units into a smaller number of Departments will not by itself ensure better coordination and greater effectiveness; if these units are left to act as they have done in the past, the potential of the restructuring will not be achieved. It has too often occurred that the Achilles' heel of administrative reform was in its implementation leading to dashed hopes, and what lies ahead now for the United Nations is the hard and detailed work of introducing new procedures and

(Mr. Wilenski, Australia)

processes and of structuring the new Departments and Offices in such a way that they can achieve the results we all expect of them.

A number of the principles set out in paragraph 3 of the resolution refer to the process of recruitment and appointment to the most senior posts in the Organization. They are aimed at ensuring that these posts are filled by fair and understandable processes by only the most able women and men, on as wide a geographical basis as possible. They are put forward in a very simple and straightforward manner, but they have not always been adhered to in the past. Thus, for example, the reference to transparency of recruitment suggests that the practice whereby a vacancy at a senior level becomes known only after it has been filled and no longer exists is not one which the membership would wish to see continued. My delegation believes that the principle of transparency implies that vacancies at these most senior levels should be made publicly known, together with a description of the jobs to be done, so that there is adequate opportunity and time for qualified individuals to express their interest and to be considered against the criteria that the Secretary-General believes appropriate.

The call for the end of national monopolies on particular positions does not in any way reflect on the character or abilities of the nationals of particular States but, rather, is an objection to the practice whereby some States have in the past believed that it was their right to nominate their nationals into the Secretariat, leaving the Secretary-General's hands tied. It is essential, as this resolution again implies, that if the international civil service is to operate as the writers of the Charter intended, the occupants of senior posts should not feel themselves beholden to particular countries that supported their appointment, nor that senior positions be

(Mr. Wilenski, Australia)

multiplied simply to accommodate the demands of all the States that would like to see one of their nationals in high office. It is essential that for every senior post the Secretary-General should feel himself free to appoint whomever he considers the most appropriate person in accordance with Article 101 of the Charter. This is the approach that we believe underlies the principles set out in paragraph 3 of the resolution, and that we hope will apply in the second phase of reform.

If, as both the Charter and this resolution suggest, the higest standards of efficiency, competence and integrity are the paramount consideration with regard to the recruitment of international civil servants, we can expect that a reasonable proportion of those appointed to the most senior level will be women. Their absence is not in accord with the principles of the Charter and is a rebuff to the aspirations of half the world's population. My delegation acknowledges that the Secretary-General was faced with an unsatisfactory situation and that what he has announced is only a first phase, with the contracts provided to senior officers being of one year's duration only; but we must express our great disappointment that, even for a year, no women are included in the top level of leadership of the Organization. Instead of going forwards to the objectives that the General Assembly has set, we are going backwards; we very much hope that we can see a great leap forward in one year's time.

The Secretariat, under past Secretaries-General, has, despite the limitations of structure and the pressures of the cold war, achieved much. It has owed much to the work of an outstanding group of officials over the years. However, the enormous increase both in the expectations and in the

(Mr. Wilenski, Australia)

demands on this Organization mean that old methods and old structures will no longer make do. Too many of the world's hopes are pinned on the work of the Secretariat for us to accept second best, either in the choice of structures or in the choice of officials. In the individuals who already work in the Secretariat, in the process of reform and revitalization that the Secretary-General has launched and in the principles set out in this resolution, we have the basis for a Secretariat which will be able to meet all the demands placed on it as long as the Member States allow it to do so. We welcome the first phase of reform announced by the Secretary-General and look forward to the subsequent phases. We welcome this resolution. Reform does not come overnight by the adoption of resolutions but we do believe that, through hard and detailed work on the part of many different individuals and under the determined leadership of this Secretary-General, such reform can and will be achieved.

The PRESIDENT (interpretation from Arabic): There are three more speakers. Although the rule allows for 10-minute statements, I would appeal to them to be briefer, because we are under the time constraint of the flag-raising ceremony for the new Members.

Mr. REINO (Portugal): I have the honour to speak on behalf of the 12 States members of the European Community on agenda item 105, "Review of the efficiency of the administrative and financial functioning of the United Nations".

In his last report on the work of the Organization, the former Secretary-General, Mr. Javier Perez de Cuellar, commented on the fact that 1991 was yet another year marking a great turning-point in history and, in that respect, underscored the renaissance of the United Nations and the vastly strengthened credentials of the Organization. The Twelve share his view that the United Nations has come nearer to the vision of its Charter.

It is evident that the renaissance of the Organization entails the need for changes in the structure of the Secretariat so as to enable the Organization to respond to the increasingly diverse new demands put on it. Therefore, the Twelve welcome the fact that the Secretary-General, Mr. Boutros Boutros-Ghali, in the exercise of his prerogatives as Chief Administrative Officer of the United Nations, has undertaken the restructuring of the Secretariat of the Organization, bearing in mind the need to consolidate and streamline the Organization's activities into well-defined functional categories aimed at ensuring the effective implementation of the objectives of the Charter and of the mandates entrusted by the policy-making organs.

The Twelve would like to stress the importance, when making appointments, of securing the highest standards of efficiency, competence and integrity and of recruiting the staff on as wide a geographical basis as possible.

(Mr. Reino, Portugal)

The 12 States members of the European Community support the initiatives of the Secretary-General and would like to thank him for his note (A/46/882) on the restructuring of the Secretariat of the Organization. They would like, however, to make some comments on areas which they consider of particular importance.

The decision of the Secretary-General to eliminate a number of high-level posts - which responds to the requests of Member States expressed in many resolutions, including resolution 41/213, for a reduction in the top-heavy structure of the Secretariat - also deserves the support of the Twelve.

One of the areas where the involvement of the United Nations has increased dramatically is that of peace-keeping; not only is the number of operations now in course unprecedented in the history of the Organization, but their dimensions and complexity pose a real test for the capacity of the Organization to respond. The strengthening of the Secretariat units dealing with this important area is indeed called for.

The resolution we have just adopted contains in its operative paragraph 3 a number of considerations on the restructuring of the Secretariat. It mentions, inter alia, the need to strengthen United Nations programmes in the economic and social fields. In that respect the Twelve feel that particular attention should be given to some fundamental functions of the Department and wish to underline the importance of those functions in the coordination of operational activities within the United Nations system. They also consider it essential that this Department's staff should include highly qualified economic experts. They hope that a clear division of labour will be worked out between activities of the economic and social department on the one hand,

(Mr. Reino, Portugal)

and activities in the various United Nations capitals on the other hand, in particular the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development and the organizations based in Vienna.

The Twelve also wish to emphasize the need to strengthen the Centre for Human Rights in Geneva, which is still coping with problems of management and scarce resources.

The Twelve welcome the decision of the Secretary-General to appoint a high-level emergency assistance coordinator, and express their confidence that this step will contribute decisively to an early implementation of General Assembly resolution 46/182 on the strengthening of the coordination of humanitarian emergency assistance. They hope that the office of the new Under-Secretary-General will be adequately staffed.

The Community and its member States remain deeply committed to ensuring prompt relief to the victims of catastrophes and emergency situations, as well as to the effective coordination of the actions of United Nations agencies in this field. Recalling the declaration of the European Council on 29 June 1991, which stated that this strengthened coordination will be carried out in Geneva, they take note with interest of the Swiss Government's proposal to make available the necessary facilities in Geneva, where most of the international organizations involved are based.

The Twelve look forward to the report of the Secretary-General on the implications of this first phase of the restructuring of the Secretariat, which will be presented to the General Assembly at its forty-seventh session in the form of revised estimates for the programme budget for the biennium 1992-1993. The Twelve have no doubt that, in the process of revitalizing the

(Mr. Reino, Portugal)

Organization which he has courageously initiated, the Secretary-General will be guided by the need to adapt the Organization to an ever changing world.

The Twelve would like to take this opportunity to reaffirm their commitment to the principles of the Charter of the United Nations and to reiterate, once more, their readiness to cooperate closely with the Secretary-General with a view to strengthening the Organization's capacity to meet its objectives and the new challenges.

Mr. ERDOS (Hungary): I have the honour to speak on behalf of Czechoslovakia, Poland and Hungary on agenda item 105.

Member States have long been pressing for structural and administrative changes in the Organization, and more specifically in the Secretariat. Given the new world political situation, the unprecedented opportunities and the countless challenges the United Nations is faced with at present - suffice it to mention the huge increase in the demands made on peace-keeping operations - structural changes have become inevitable, and indispensable if the Organization wishes within its existing financial resources to fulfil its universal mission and to preserve its ability to respond effectively to the new requirements.

Czechoslovakia, Poland and Hungary lend their full support to the Secretary-General's efforts to carry out his mandate as Chief Administrative Officer of the United Nations. Consequently the three countries welcome his bold initiative in launching the process of restructuring the Secretariat. We fully share the Secretary-General's view, expressed in his note (A/46/882), that the announced changes in the structure are merely the first phase of an ongoing reform.

(Mr. Erdos, Hungary)

The streamlining of a cumbersome bureaucracy corresponds to the need to make the Secretariat more effective and flexible. It matches the recommendations of the Group of 18 and meets the aspirations of Member States. We sincerely hope that bureaucratic inertia will not reverse this process. Further, we trust that in the spirit of the resolution just adopted on the subject the exclusively international character of the staff will be preserved.

(Mr. Erdos, Hungary)

We look forward to the forthcoming steps in the restructuring process which, very much like this first one, should be aimed at ensuring effective implementation of the objectives of the Charter and of the mandates entrusted to our Organization by the policy-making organs.

In this context, let me express the conviction of the three countries on whose behalf I am speaking that human rights and humanitarian activities, which, momentarily, account for a mere 4 per cent of the regular budget, will find their well-deserved and fully justified place in the new structure, consistent with the weight these questions represent among the purposes of the United Nations enshrined in the Charter. In the process of restructuring, a long-term solution should also be found in the very near future for the staffing and financial difficulties that at present beset the Centre for Human Rights.

Czechoslovakia, Poland and Hungary would like to assure the Secretary-General of their continued cooperation in meeting the aforementioned objectives and express their confidence that the restructuring process will significantly strengthen the Organization's capacity to fulfil its lofty goals.

Mrs. FRECHETTE (Canada): The Canadian delegation is pleased to have joined the consensus on this important resolution. This resolution reflects the importance which Member States, including Canada, have placed on the need for reform of the United Nations Secretariat. These are very challenging times for the United Nations.

Increasingly, the Secretary-General is expected to play a pro-active role and is given responsibilities to carry out complex and delicate tasks. To deliver his mandate, the Secretary-General must be able to count on an

(Mrs. Frechette, Canada)

efficient, well-functioning Secretariat, staffed by competent and impartial employees. The resolution we have just adopted approves the launching by the Secretary-General of a further process of restructuring and streamlining of the Secretariat and notes that the positive actions which he has undertaken are but the first phase of a process.

Canada believes that the reform process initiatied by the Secretary-General goes in the right direction and that the changes he has recently brought about will increase the efficiency of the Secretariat and improve its capacity to respond to the new challenges it is facing. Of particular importance are the guidelines or principles which the resolution establishes for future reform. These include the need to ensure transparency in recruitment and the need to ensure that the highest standards of efficiency, competence and integrity are paramount considerations in the recruitment and performance of international civil servants.

My delegation attaches particular importance to the resolution's call to improve the representation and status of women in the Secretariat, particularly at its higher echelons. My delegation hopes and expects that this guideline will be fully reflected in further stages of the reform process which, regrettably, was not the case in the last round of appointments.

Finally, my delegation would like to express its appreciation for the very constructive role played by the Permanent Representative of Egypt in helping to forge consensus on this important resolution.

The PRESIDENT (interpretation from Arabic): We have just heard the last speaker in explanation of vote. We have thus concluded this stage of our consideration of agenda item 105.

After the conclusion of the meeting, the Secretary-General and I, along with other members, will proceed to the delegates' entrance to observe the raising of the flags of the newly admitted States Members of the United Nations.

The meeting rose at 1.25 p.m.